4M518 - MISSIONS
Reformed Theological Seminary
Fall Term, 2010
Professor: Samuel H. Larsen, D.Min., Ph.D.
(rev. 3/24/10)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

2 hours. An introductory course in missions history and anthropology for cross-cultural workers that surveys theological foundations, historical events, personalities, and trends, theories, and anthropological tools in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of the task of bringing the Gospel across cultural and ethnic boundaries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will demonstrate the following understandings, motivations, and skills:

1. Students will be able to trace biblical and theological foundations for missions.
2. Students will be able to identify key historical events, personalities, and trajectories of the missionary enterprise.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of important missiological theories and strategies as they have historically influenced and currently influence missions.
4. Students will show a grasp of basic tools for intercultural communication and cross-cultural ministry

REQUIRED TEXTS:


**RECOMMENDED READING:**


Kane, J. Herbert. 1982. *A concise history of the Christian world mission: A panoramic view of
missions from Pentecost to the present. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker. (216 pp)


**COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

1. Class participation (includes attendance and contribution to class discussions): 20%
2. Research paper (12-15 pages) on a topic previously approved by the professor: 40%
3. Take-home final examination (open book essays - no collaboration permitted): 40%

NOTE: Spelling and grammar of written submissions must be accurate and will be taken into account in course assessment. Format must comply with the standards of Reformed Theological Seminary. Submissions which are submitted late will be reduced one letter grade for each week or partial week beyond the date due. Course work turned in after the last day of regular classes for the semester will not be accepted.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Dr. Larsen is available before or after class by appointment and may also be contacted by e-mail (slarsen@rts.edu) or by telephone (404-995-8484).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Modular course, Friday evening through Saturday, September 10-11, October 8-9, and November 12-13, 2010, at the RTS campus. (Students are encouraged to interact with one another and with the professor over lunch.)

Session I: Toward a Biblical Theology of Missions: Seeing the Big Picture

Session II: History of Missions: Pentecost to the Conversion of the Vikings

Session III: History of Missions: Crusades to Reformation

Session IV: History of Missions: Reformation to Present

Session V: Mission Strategies and Critiques: Venn/Anderson/Nevius Method; Homogeneous Unit Method; Unreached Peoples Strategy; International Partnerships/Teams

Session VI: Globalization and Missions

Session VII: Contextualization and Missions
Session VIII: Exegeting Culture and Worldview: Bringing the Gospel to Bear

Student Course Evaluations